

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JANUARY 13, 2004

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given by Rev. Rose Bartleson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Richard Hartman, Bob Humiston, Pamela Lancaster, and Robert Rye. Bud Jeffries was absent. Also present were County Attorney Jerry Janulewicz and representatives from the *Grand Island Independent* and KRGI.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – Arnold made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Accept and place on file the minutes of the December 30, 2003 meeting
2. 5 Approve the quarterly diesel fuel claim in the amount of \$846.00
3. 15 Approve Resolution #04-001 for the vacation of Roger Sullivan Subdivision
4. 15b Approve the final plat for Roger Sullivan Second Subdivision
5. 15c Approve the final plat for S & L Subdivision
6. 21 Designate the County Newspapers for 2004
7. 22 Designate the County Depositories for 2004
8. 23 Accept and place on file the office reports for the Register of Deeds, County Court, Hall & Howard County Juvenile Diversion, Hall County Sheriff and County Clerk
9. 24 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's Miscellaneous Receipts
10. 25 Accept and place on file communications as received
11. 29 Authorize the Public Works Department to do a traffic count on Platte River Road as per the committee recommendation

Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT
REGISTER OF DEEDS
DECEMBER 2003

DOCUMENTARY STAMP FEES	\$ 7,538.26
RECORDING FEES	22,491.50
PHOTO FEES	759.40

OFFICE REPORT
HALL COUNTY SHERIFF
NOVEMBER 2004

FEES MILEAGE & MISC	\$9,323.50
COPIES	71.00
HANDGUN APPLICATIONS	55.00
TITLE INSPECTIONS	2,070.00

HALL COUNTY CLERK
OFFICE REPORT
December 2003

TITLE FEES STATE	\$14,837.00
TITLE FEES COUNTY	\$ 7,591.00
RECORDING FEES	\$ 85.00
MARRIAGE LICENSES	\$ 315.00
PHOTO FEES/FAX FEES & MISC.	\$ 5.30
PLAT BOOKS/OTHER	81.00
CERTIFIED COPIES MARRIAGE LICENSES	\$ 115.00
TIME CARD FEES	\$.00
TOTAL FOR NOVEMBER FEES	\$23,029.30

OFFICE REPORT
HALL COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES
DECEMBER 2003

JUVENILE REFERRALS	64 JUVENILES
JUVENILE OFFENDERS	3 JUVENILE
JUVENILE HOUSE ARREST	0 JUVENILES
TOTAL UNDER SUPERVISION	324 JUVENILES
FEES COLLECTED	\$1,465.00

OFFICE REPORT
HOWARD COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES
DECEMBER 2003

JUVENILE REFERRALS	24 JUVENILES
TOTAL JUVENILE ENROLLEES	17 JUVENILES
FEES COLLECTED FOR MONTH	\$0.00
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED FISCAL YEAR	\$ 200.00

OFFICE REPORT
COUNTY COURT
DECEMBER 2003

FINES (CO.)	\$55,919.16
OVERLOAD FINES	750.00
REIMBURSE SHERIFF FEES	1,985.57
WORK RELEASE FEES	807.00
REIMBURSE FAX COPIES	3.00
FINES (CITY)	9,939.97
REIMBURSE WITNESS FEES	651.35
BOND FORFEITURES	454.50
REIMBURSE CO. FEES	
TOTAL	\$ 70,524.55

COUNTY CLERK CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS OF 2004 COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN
County Clerk Marla Conley called for nominations of 2004 County Board Chairman.

Eriksen nominated Pamela Lancaster and Humiston seconded the nomination.

County Clerk Marla Conley called for other nominations.

County Clerk Marla Conley called for other nominations.

Arnold moved that nominations cease.

Arnold moved that Pamela Lancaster be elected as 2004 chairman by acclamation. All present approved the motion.

County Clerk Marla Conley called for nominations for the 2004 Vice Chair of the Hall County Board of Supervisors.

Jeffries made a motion to nominate Jim Eriksen. Arnold seconded the motion.

County Clerk Marla Conley called for other nominations.

County Clerk Marla Conley called for other nominations.

Arnold moved that Jim Eriksen be elected as 2004 vice chairman by acclamation. All present approved the motion.

Pamela Lancaster is the 2004 Chairman of the Hall County Board of Supervisors and Jim Eriksen is the Vice Chairman of the Hall County Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Lancaster was presented a plaque recognizing her service as Chairman for 2003.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chairman Lancaster called for public participation and no one responded.

4. 9:45 A.M. BETTY CURTIS TO PRESENT HOSOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FINAL REPORT – Betty Curtis was present and provided a copy of the final report to the board. This year they waited eighteen months before there was another collection date and Ms. Curtis stated they will not do that again because of large amount that was collected. There were over 700 cars and there were traffic problems. The event started at 1:00 p.m. and they were not finished until 6:00 p.m. She is requesting a letter of support from the board to submit with the grant application that is due February 1st. Ms. Curtis stated that they will hold the collection day sometime in September or October.

Hartman made a motion and Eriksen seconded to authorize the chair to sign a letter of support for the grant application. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

6. DISCUSS AND APPORVE MOTION TO RESCIND MOTION MADE ON DECEMBER 2, 2003 "TO REQUIRE THE COUNTY BOARD TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF REPLACEMENT EMPLOYEES" – Hartman stated that the board made this motion earlier and he questioned how the board can tell an elected official what to do. It is wrong to try and micromanage these departments.

Hartman made a motion and Arnold seconded to rescind the motion from December 2, 2003 to require the County Board to approve the hiring of replacement employees.

Arnold stated that he voted to support this motion to keep a handle on the budget and try to control expenses and since this decision the board has learned that officials already do this before they hire people. In come cases personnel is critical and if the hiring process is slowed down it does not save money. This can put a burden on the department heads and it may be difficult for them to operate their offices

Hartman stated that this is not saving money, if part-time help is hired and they stay for two weeks and then a permanent person is hired they have to start over with the training process and this does not save money.

Jeffries questioned if the county imposed a hiring freeze would this include all hiring even replacements. They had talked about a hiring and purchasing freeze. Jeffries cited the request for the replacement hiring in the Sheriff's Department the Sheriff came to the criminal justice committee and then to the board, this is a good example of what the board wanted to happen. This policy has only been in place for one month and maybe it needs more time for it to work.

Eriksen stated that this may not be the best action but his thought was to better manage county funds it was not an attempt to micromanage county business. He stated the board needs to give the policy an opportunity to work and he does not see it as a hardship for the officials.

Rye questioned the criteria that are followed when there is a request from an official to hire a replacement employee? What is the procedure to make a determination that the hiring is essential? If it is only that the official makes an appearance to the board to request the replacement, what is done to hold down the costs?

Lancaster stated that these are good arguments on both sides the committee was attempting to begin looking at the budget process. This was an overall way to ask departments to look at their work force and assess what is necessary. The board has to look hard at the cost of benefits and what they can afford.

Jeffries stated that if the board just rubber stamps the requests it is a waste of time. The County Sheriff did come to the board for his request and he had tried to not hire a replacement but found it necessary to hire anyway.

Arnold suggested that there should be a standardized form for a process that the officials could follow, but at this time there isn't a form. He suggested a more detailed plan that could be implemented.

Rye stated that if officials have to justify what they need for their departments this makes them more conscious of the budgets. He suggested that all departments look harder at their departments and determine if the position is really necessary.

Jeffries questioned if the State of Nebraska has a hiring freeze maybe they should look into this issue.

The vote on the motion to rescind the December 2, 2003 motion was taken. Arnold, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries and Rye all voted yes and Eriksen and Lancaster voted no. Motion carried.

Clerk of the District Court Valorie Bendixen was present and she stated that her office does not have high paid employees. They start at \$8.50 an hour and if the benefits are cut this is a serious concern. She was present to request the board's approval for a replacement employee.

County Treasurer Doris Mason was also present to request approval for a replacement employee for her real estate department. This employee handles real estate transactions and drivers licenses. The work load has increased and at times her employees work 40 hours a week when they are busy.

8 9:45 MILT MORAVEK DISCUSSION REGARDING UPPER PRAIRIE/SILVER/MORRIS FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT - Milt Moravek with the Central Platte Natural Resources District was present and distributed information concerning the Prairie/Silver/Morris Flood Control Project. Central Platte NRD and the City of Grand Island have completed a detailed analysis of the hydrology and 100-year floodplain south of Highway 2 and east of Highway 281. Because of the development in this area they are filing an application and the feasibility study report with the Nebraska Natural Resources Department for cost-sharing of a nine-year \$15.5 million project for this area. Once the project is completed the City could petition FEMA to remove northern parts of Grand Island from the floodplain.

He showed aerial photos of the 1967 flood that were taken by the Army Corp of Engineers. He pointed out Prairie Creek, Moores Creek and Silver Creek and the areas that were flooded. This flood covered 41 square miles of croplands and damaged 1,162 residences and 46 businesses. Since then a large number of subdivisions and commercial developments have occurred in this area.

The study has been completed and it proposes to develop four dry dams that will hold the flood water for three days and a large number of detention cells in the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant that will hold the water. These cells will be clay lined so they will not increase the water table. The water will be allowed to be metered out at a slower rate so the areas downstream will not be adversely affected. The cost of the feasibility study has been paid for and now they are asking the City and the County to pay for a portion of the non-federal costs. The State will be asked to pay for 60% of the non-federal costs. They are asking Merrick County to pay 2.5% and Hall County 5%. The total amount would be \$310,000.00 or \$31,000.00 a year for ten years. Because of the development on Capital Avenue the size of the flood plain has doubled.

Hartman questioned if all of the houses have been removed from the flood plain and Mr. Moravek stated that the new maps will be completed this June. He stated that the Wood

River Flood Control Project has been completed and the flood plain maps will be revised and about 1800 structures will be taken out of the flood plain. There are some houses in Kuesters Lake, Hidden Lakes and the Davis Lake that could still be in the flood plain.

Jeffries questioned how many acres in Hall County versus Merrick County would be helped by this project. Mr. Moravek stated that he did not have that information with him but Hall County would have more benefit.

Mr. Moravek stated he approached the City with this proposal and the Mayor wants the City and County to work together so he brought this to the County. Lancaster stated that the County does not have any additional dollars but the County designated the land at CAAP for this project and questioned if an in-kind payment could be considered.

Mr. Moravek stated that the Wood River War Slough Project was build for less than was projected. He reviewed information concerning this project.

Chairman Lancaster called for a 5-minute break.

11 MAX BOERSON BUILDING INSPECTOR DISCUSS AND APPROVE
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR TOWER – Jeffries stated that the conditional use committee met and all of the requirement for the town have been met and the information is in the packets. It is satisfactory to approve the permit at this time.

Jeffries made a motion and Hartman seconded to approve the condition use permit and approve Resolution #04-003 for the development of a tower for Diversified Telecom Services, Inc. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

9. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON NEW COMPUTER DEPARTMENT POSITION – Lancaster stated that they do not have all of the information for action on this item. They need to bring it back to the board at the next meeting. Lancaster stated that they need the job description and a salary range. The consultant and the computer committee will meet and then make a recommendation to the county board.

10 DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON GIS POSITION – Lancaster stated that when the GIS position was vacated they contracted with TERA Scan to keep the information current in the system. All of the data is not put into the system and the cost of the contract will go up. The committee met and recommends hiring a tech position to input the data. GIS is owned by the City of Grand Island and Hall County and it is necessary for both entities. They are developing a job description and have set a wide salary range for this position. They are asking for the board's approval to interview and hire a GIS tech position and come back to the board with a recommendation. Jeffries questioned if County Surveyor Dan Hostler should be included because this position was originally under his department and he chose to make it a separate department. The committee will be Bob Humiston, Jim Eriksen, Chad Nabity and Pat Larson. Lancaster stated she would also sit in on the interviews.

Arnold made a motion and Eriksen seconded to refer this to the GIS committee to interview the candidates and come back to the board with a recommendation. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

16 COMMENCE AUTID OF BI WEEKLY PAY CLAIMS AND EARLY CLAIM – Hartman made a motion and Arnold seconded to approve the bi-weekly pay claims and the early claims and authorize the clerk to pay. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

17 EXECUTIVE SESSION PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

18 EXECUTIVE SESSION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS TO DISCUSS REVISION OF CVB CONTRACT - Hartman made a motion and Jeffries seconded to go into the two executive sessions. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

11:30 a.m. executive session personnel evaluation

11:32 a.m. went out of executive session for personnel evaluation

11:33 a.m. executive session for contract negotiations for CVB

11:52 a.m. went out of executive session for contract negotiations

Humiston made a motion and Jeffries seconded to go out of executive session. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Arnold made a motion and Jeffries seconded to refer the personnel evaluation to the personnel committee to present to the employee. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Hartman made a motion and Jeffries seconded to request the county attorney to propose a contract with the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the Convention and Visitors Bureau regarding office space and receptionist duties. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

COUNTY BOARD ASSISTANT'S REPORT – No report.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBER'S REPORTS – Eriksen reported that the Central District Health Department will have their open house in the new facility on Saturday January 24, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Chairman Lancaster called for new or unfinished business and none responded.

Meeting recessed for the jail tour and until 1:00 p.m. for the discussion with Adams County.

1:00 P.M. DISCUSSION WITH ADAMS COUNTY BOARD REGARDING POTENTIAL CLOSING OF HASTINGS REGIONAL CENTER – Larry Woodman Chairman of the Adams County Board and Joe Patterson, the Hastings City Administrator were present for this discussion.

Mr. Woodman stated that they wanted to discuss the impact that the closing of the center would have on Hall County number one it would impact jobs and the economy of the area. If the center is closed the community based services would not be able to accommodate the mentally ill in Nebraska. It would take 190 million dollars to fund that programs that would be necessary to accommodate the mentally ill. A bill has been introduced regarding this and a hearing will be scheduled. If a person had been determined to need emergency protective custody and had to be placed in a regional center they would have to be sent to Omaha and Lincoln and they are full. The Governor hopes that local hospitals would build a wing that would house these clients but how would the fees be paid when the clients do not qualify for Medicaid. Some other states have tried this but have gone back to the regional centers. The Governor wants to keep people in the community; this won't happen if they have to use Omaha or Lincoln centers if the local hospitals cannot accommodate the people.

Mr. Patterson stated that they were asked to come to Lincoln to hear the Governor's proposals. They have asked the Governor to let Hastings and Norfolk Regional Centers help plan the restructure of this proposal. Individuals and their families migrate where mental health services are available and the regional centers are the foundations. The impact on the City and County Law Enforcement will be felt with overcrowding the jail and if it is necessary to EPC someone, where will they go? They will also be an economic impact for the employees. They agree that the system may not be working but they would like to be part of the planning process.

Lancaster question how long the average stay and what services are offered. Mr. Patterson stated that the average stay is 30 days. They do not treat chronic or acute illness they are treatment center. These are community based centers, and if the centers are removed the professionals that can treat the illness will be gone.

Discussion was held on how payments are made for clients on Medicaid. Payments are not made for mental health if the facility has more than 16 beds so the regional centers do not receive payment, but clients that are treated at the regional centers may not have insurance or be able to pay. So, the responsibility comes back to the public.

The current Hastings Regional Center houses the INS holding center and there is also a teen drug and alcohol treatment center.

Arnold stated that from a law enforcement standpoint there are concerns if the proposed plans will work. Quite often law enforcement has to deal with the mentally ill and there are repetitive instances involving the same cases. This could be compared to juvenile community based programs are used but there needs to be a facility available to address the problems.

Hartman it is important that Hall County support the Hastings and Norfolk Regional Centers.

Eriksen questioned what Hall County can do to help. Mr. Patterson encouraged Hall County to write letters to our Senators and testify at the hearing.

Lancaster stated that the County has prepared a resolution opposing the closing of the regional centers and she thanked them for bringing this information to the board.

Hartman made a motion and Arnold seconded to approve Resolution #04-003 opposing the closing of the regional centers.

Andrea Garcia, 211 East Second Street, Grand Island, was present and requested to speak to the Board concerning the closing. She expressed concern on the jobs that will be lost and the importance of the centers for the clients that are served. They will have no where else to go and it is very important for their care.

The vote on the motion to approve the resolution was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no with Jeffries absent for the vote. Motion carried.

NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Chairman Lancaster called for new or unfinished business and no one responded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 a.m. The next meeting will be January 27, 2004.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk